

Amendments to the Claims:

The full listing of claims provided below will replace any and all prior versions of all claims presently pending in this application:

1.(cancelled)

2.(cancelled)

3.(cancelled)

4.(cancelled)

5.(cancelled)

6.(cancelled)

1 7.(currently amended) A debris gathering and pickup tool,
2 comprising:

3 a) a gathering portion, including

4 i) a flattened gathering head;

5 ii) an elongated handle having an outer diameter; and

6 iii) a coupling arrangement for fixedly coupling the
7 gathering head to the elongated handle, the coupling
8 arrangement effecting the coupling such that the gathering head
9 is attached to the elongated handle at a pre-selected and fixed
10 downward angle with respect to a longitudinal axis of the
11 elongated handle; and

12 b) a grasping portion which is separable from the gathering
13 portion, the grasping portion including

14 i) a flattened grasping member; and

15 ii) a user operated grasping sleeve, which is structured
16 with the grasping member portion fixedly coupled ~~fixed thereto~~
17 to the grasping sleeve at an angle substantially equal to ~~or~~
18 ~~less than~~ the downward angle established between the gathering
19 head and the longitudinal axis of the elongated handle;

20 iii) with the grasping sleeve structured having an internal
21 diameter selected to co-axially accept the elongated handle
22 therein for establishing a slidable coupling between the
23 gathering portion and the grasping portion;

24 c) wherein the slidable coupling of the grasping portion is
25 ~~further structured for being slidably coupleable, by the user,~~
26 to the elongated handle of the gathering portion is such that
27 the grasping portion may be ~~selectively~~ slidably moved by the
28 user to a selected position along the elongated handle between
29 a first retracted position, wherein the gathering portion may
30 be employed for gathering debris and forming ~~the~~ bunches, and a
31 second ~~distal~~ grasping position wherein debris may be grasped
32 between a second surface of the gathering head and a first
33 surface of the grasping member, enabling a lifting and
34 subsequent disposal of gathered debris.

35
1 8.(currently amended) The debris gathering and pickup tool in
2 accordance with claim 7, wherein the downward angle established
3 between each of the gathering head and the elongated handle, as

4 well as the grasping member and the grasping sleeve, is
5 substantially in the range of 15 to 60 degrees.

6
1 9. (currently amended) The debris gathering and pickup tool in
2 accordance with claim 8, wherein each the downward angle is
3 substantially 30 degrees.

4
10. (cancelled)

11. (cancelled)

12. (cancelled)

13. (cancelled)

1 14. (currently amended) The debris gathering and pickup tool in
2 accordance with claim 7, wherein the grasping portion is
3 ~~slidably fixed to the elongated handle portion and the coupling~~
4 ~~between the grasping member and the grasping sleeve is~~
5 ~~structured such that the grasping member can be detached from~~
6 ~~the grasping sleeve when not needed for grasping and picking up~~
7 ~~debris~~ detachable from the gathering portion by the user
8 sliding the grasping sleeve, and thereby the grasping portion,
9 off of a first end of the elongated handle, thereby de-coupling
10 the gathering portion from the grasping portion.
11

1 15.(new) A debris gathering and pickup tool, structured with a
2 gathering portion which is separable from a grasping portion,
3 and arranged for gathering debris contained within a selected
4 area, and grasping and lifting the debris for subsequent
5 disposal, the debris gathering and pickup tool comprising:

6 a) a gathering portion, including

7 i) a flattened gathering head;

8 ii) an elongated handle; and

9 iii) a first coupling arrangement for fixedly coupling the
10 gathering head to the elongated handle so that the gathering
11 head is fixedly attached to the elongated handle at a pre-
12 selected and fixed downward angle with respect to a
13 longitudinal axis of the elongated handle; and

14 b) a grasping portion, which is separable from the gathering
15 portion, the grasping portion including

16 i) a flattened grasping member;

17 ii) a user operated grasping sleeve; and

18 iii) a second coupling arrangement for fixedly coupling the
19 grasping member to the grasping sleeve such that the grasping
20 member is coupled to the grasping sleeve at a pre-selected and
21 fixed downward angle with respect to a longitudinal axis of the
22 grasping sleeve;

23 iv) with the grasping portion arranged for being slidably
24 coupled to the gathering portion, by the user, by inserting a

25 first end of the elongated handle, into and through a center
26 opening at a distal end of the grasping sleeve, causing the
27 elongated handle to be placed coaxially through a center
28 opening of the grasping sleeve of the grasping portion;

29 c) thereby establishing the slidable coupling between the
30 separable grasping portion and the gathering portion so that
31 the grasping portion may be moved by the user to a selected
32 position along a length of the elongated handle between a first
33 retracted position, wherein the gathering portion may be
34 employed for gathering debris and forming bunches of debris,
35 and a second grasping position wherein debris may be grasped
36 between a second surface of the gathering head and a first
37 surface of the grasping member, enabling a lifting of the
38 gathered debris for subsequent disposal.

39
1 16.(new) The debris gathering and pickup tool in accordance
2 with claim 15, wherein the downward angles established between
3 the gathering head and the elongated handle, as well as the
4 grasping member and the grasping sleeve, are equal and
5 substantially in the range of 15 to 60 degrees.

6
1 17.(new) The debris gathering and pickup tool in accordance
2 with claim 16, wherein the downward angles are each
3 substantially 30 degrees.